TIM. To Lacedaemon did my land extend.

FLAP. O my good lord, the world is but a word[4]; Were it all yours to give it in a breath, How quickly were it gone ?

TIM. You tell me true.

FLAP-. If you suspect my husbandry, or falsehood.
Call me before the exactest auditors, And set me on the proof. So the gods bless me, When all our offices[5] have been oppressed

- and at length
How GOES our reckoning*?] This Steward talks very wildly. The Lord indeed might have asked, what a Lord seldom knows :

[f] * How goes our reckoning ? "

But the Steward was too well satisfied in that matter. I would read therefore:

*[£] *Hold good* our reckoning ? " WARBURTON.

It is common enough, and the commentator knows it is common to propose, interrogatively, that of which neither the speaker nor the hearer has any doubt. The present reading may therefore stand. JOHNSON.

How will you be able to subsist in the time intervening between the payment of the present demands (which your whole substance will hardly satisfy) and the claim of future dues, for which you have no fund whatsoever; and finally on the settlement of all accounts in what a wretched plight will you be ? MALONE.

4 O my good lord, the world is but a .WORD ;] The meaning is, as the *world* itself may be comprised in a word, you might give it away in a breath. WAR BURTON.

•5 — our OFFICES —] i. e. the apartments allotted to culinary purposes, the reception of domesticks, *Sac.* Thus, in Macbeth :

" Sent forth great largess to *your offices."*

Would Duncan have sent *largess* to any but *servants ?* See vol. xi. p. 90, n. 8. It appears that what we now call *offices,* were anciently called *houses of office.* So, in Chaucer's Clerkes Tale, v. 8140, Mr. Tyrwhitt's edition :

" *Houses of office* stuffed with plentee
" Ther mayst thou see of deinteous vittaile."

STEEVENS.

I have already given my opinion upon trie passage quoted from Macbeth, in its proper place. *Offices* are not apartments allotted to the reception of domesticks ; but, as Mr. Steevens has properly explained the word, (where it occurs in Othello, vol. ix. p. 318, n. 7,) it means *[e] all rooms or places, at which refreshments are prepared, or served out.'"' I think his explanation of riotous feeders